Defining of "declared goods" in the Central Sales Tax Act

3535. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested to Government that the items identified as "declared goods" should be clearly defined under the Central Sales Tax Act; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The items listed as 'declared goods' have been clearly spelt out in the Central Sales Tax Act and have been worded in consultation with the concerned Government departments. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has not indicated the specific items of declared goods in respect of which difficulties are being experienced.

Reduction of Interest on Crop loan

3536. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts have observed that the reduction by two to two-and-half per cent interest on crop loan announced in the Union Budget for the 1988-89 will push the Co-operatives as well as commercial banks further to the brink of ruin; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to this observation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that reduction in interest rate has been made with effect from 1st March, 1988 only in respect of short term Agricultural Loans. According to RBI while there will be some reduction in the income of lending institutions, it is not likely to affect the viability of their operations. Moreover, cooperative banks and regional rural banks have been provided relief by reducing the rate of National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) refinance for seasonal agricultural operations.

Assistant Directors on deputation under the Office of the All India Handlooms and Handicrafts Board

3537. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Assistant Directors working on deputation in All India Handlooms and Handicrafts Board under the Ministry of Textiles;

(b) since when they are on deputation and what are the terms and conditions laid down for their continued retention on deputation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Inspectors working in the Board are eligible for promotion as Assistant Directors;

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that the continued retention of the present deputationists in the Board has blocked the promotional avenues of the Inspectors eligible for promotion;

(e) whether such continued extension on deputation is in complete violation of Government rules/instructions; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons for giving the extension for the last so many years and by when they are likely to be sent back to their parent offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI